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ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CIA RDP63
18 August 1958

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DARPA review(s) completed.

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

Mr. Richard M. Bissell, jr.
Special Assistant to the Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bissell:

I have your memorandum of August 9, 1958 requesting my comments on an enclosed explanation of changes in the cost estimates for Project CORONA since it was originally approved.

I fully agree with your statement that any attempt to be specific in allocating costs between WS-117L and CORONA would be arbitrary since the two programs are complementary. However, I do not believe that the Man-in-Space benefits from the biomedical cover program are as significant as your memorandum implies. Actually the data expected to be gained is small when compared to that which would be possible were it not for the cover requirement. For example, the launch site would be Patrick rather than Cooke, the re-entry angle would be quite different, and the capsule would be designed to a configuration better suited to accommodate a man. For these reasons we have felt that the biomedical program in its entirety is primarily for cover purposes. Consequently the figures on CORONA costs we have used (see attached table) include items such as operation of range ship and tracking stations, the biomedical subsystem proper, and the UDMH engine improvement.

I stress this point since I understand that a suggestion has been made that a part of the biomedical costs be charged to funds available to ARPA for the Man-in-Space program. I would strongly oppose any such suggestion inasmuch as our Man-in-Space funds of [redacted] are essential to a joint program we are planning with the NASA.

NRO
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Enclosure

Roy W. Johnson
Roy W. Johnson
Director

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense

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